

Wednesday September 7, 2016, at Christ Lutheran

MINUTES FOR FEEDBACK

1. 6:00 Opening prayer/grace for food and refreshments
2. Agenda check – agreement to use as printed
3. Recap of where we are and the timelines we had set out *-thoughts shared re: "What is our end game? Do we stay with 2 options or go down to one? We can't decide yet."*
4. Summary of any new feedback from congregations *-meetings for feedback are set for some parishes -some concern re: our including numbers for staff because we don't know what programs there will be -people have said the next group will do the implementation -most have appreciated the work and gave feedback re: ballot for parishes to make decision at vestry meetings or whatever actual voting happens -can present 2 options and the feedback could flesh them out -concern re: options we gave were for thought over summer, would people find it easier to make a yes/no vote for one option -should we use the word 'vote', do we want to go to a final meeting and vote or do we want to get more direction at the follow up meeting -need to be careful with wording like retro-fit and make sure parishioners understand the reason for re-configuration, in final editing can change words as needed -evangelism not mentioned -repeated that can't keep doing things the same and the 'bridge' image made an impact -not much resistance to change as there has been change happening -people have said very emphatically that what is happening in St. B is very different than what is happening at the other churches and they don't want to lose it -both 'pillars' and 'new-comers' have expressed ease with change -informal discussion at A.S. with a combined service time, all seem to have taken summer off – at S.B. most want clarification, also a sense of 'let's get on with it' – at A.S. parish voted to continue with the Open Diner until December and the city of Peterborough has said they will be taking bids for the noon and supper meals (Lighthouse and Open Diner) – some comments re: which option to consider (Option 2 at St. B.), only one person said we only need one downtown church, some clear statements "we won't go there"*
5. Some enlightenment about the retreat on 24/25 September
-Council planned the retreat in support of the Commission however it doesn't fit well with our timeline -after discussion it is agreed that we go ahead with our timeline and if the weekend helps we will include it in our reporting -if someone is to speak they can speak to the history of what we have done – unfortunate that communication was not clear -we need to check with weekend planning group to make sure they know our timeline has been disrupted -Raymond will e-mail Scott with our concern re: the purpose of the Retreat weekend and its affect on our timeline
6. Plan to meet our final report date
-can we set an objective to come up with just one option? -we should try to come up with ONE -human nature to choose the option that speaks to their own church -we need to do something different, we are presently in the weeds of the information -what we need is a 'stance', look at our vision/mission statements -that should lead us to something rather than worrying about our own churches – it will be difficult to make a change considering the number in the congregations that don't want to get together -eventually they may, but we need a starting point -we have to accept change and try to keep programs but also think about what the future has to have -we should refine the 2 options for 3-5 yrs. but then eventually phase into one church -can still do evangelism no matter what size you are

-clarification -did we agree that we were going to polish the 2 options and make that the report- discussion re: voting/feedback and where does our job end, how do we make sure we have received feedback that gives direction for all churches

-clarification – we make a recommendation and recommendations about next steps -we need to make ourselves a process-chart of steps we need to follow to complete our report -we had 3 tasks to do and we are at the 'refine our options' step based on the last round of consultations

-does our timeline meet our required task? -yes – we will meet with our parishes, 2)refine the report and 3)submit the report with recommendations which may include 'make a final decision' and/or 'put a transition team in place' and/or ask Bishop to make decision about what the next steps will be -discussion re: Covenant Council's mandate and whether they may be the decision makers -agreement that when we have finished we will submit it to Bishop and include recommendations for next steps (Amy shared a story)

7. Other

- Commission members shared dates that are planned for parish feedback sessions – St. L. Sept 27, C.L. Sept. 18, St. B. Sept. 18, St. J and A.S. TBA

Next meeting time and location

-this Commission will try to meet on Wednesday October 12 at 6:00 at St. Luke's and on Wednesday October 19 at St. John's to finalize report.

Points to Share With Congregations

-parishioners should share feedback re: Preliminary Report with their Commission representatives by October 7

8. Closing prayer/song